

Home Circle.

THE TRUE STORIES FOR PARENTS.

C. F. YODER.

In speaking to the parents of a certain boy who wanted to be a Christian, the father said to me "I will be responsible for the conduct of my children until they are of age and then they can do as they please." Since then he has reaped in sorrow, the bitter fruit of his indifference. Many a home has been made sad because of the mistaken idea that boys and girls must sow a certain amount of wild oats before becoming Christians.

The first of these anecdotes is related by Moody.

"A certain gentleman was a member of the Presbyterian church. His little boy was sick. When he went home his wife was weeping and said, 'Our boy is dying, he has had a change for the worse. I wish you would go in and see him.' The father went into the room and placed his hand upon the brow of his dying boy and could feel that the cold, damp sweat was gathering there; that the cold icy hand of death was feeling for the cords of life. 'Do you know, my boy, that you are dying?' asked the father. 'Am I? Is this death? Do you really think I am dying?' Yes, my son, your end on earth is near." "And will I be with Jesus to-night, father?" "Yes my boy, to-night." "Father, don't you weep, for when I get there I will go right straight to Jesus and tell Him that you have been trying all my life to lead me to Him."

The second a lady told to me with the hot teardrops rolling over her cheeks. "It was my aunt she said" and both she and her husband were worldly people. They had one child—a sweet little girl. Instead of teaching her as they should, they would dress her up while yet a little tot and take her along to dances.

She never learned anything different till just as she was growing out of her girlhood she become ill and was given up to die. As she neared the end she called her friends about her and talked to them. "You know," she said "how I have lived and I thought it was all right but now I see that is wrong. Don't you do as I have but learn to serve Jesus." After she had bidden them all farewell, she called her mother to her alone and said, "Mamma I want to talk to you. You know, mamma, how you have taught me to dance and how you used to dress me up and take me along before I could hardly walk and now mamma, I am going to die and I am going to hell and *its your fault.*" She lingered a little longer and died and she

died happy yet her awful accusation broke the mother's heart and within a year she pined away and died. The husband took to drinking and the home was broken up."

This was her story. Mother, father look into the eyes of your dear little ones to-day. How are you leading them? Better that a great millstone be hanged round your neck and you were drowned in the depths of the sea, than offend one of these little ones; but sweeter than heavens music will be the words, "I will tell Jesus that all your life you have been leading me to Him."

WOMAN'S INFLUENCE.

KATHARINE F. SMITH.

This question of woman's influence, girls, confronts us on all sides, not only now, but always. It is a stupendous thing, a factor in the world's history which stands out prominently, one of the great and moving influences of the ages, for evil as well as for good, past and to come, and cannot be lightly dealt with to-day. Let us think what we are about. Call a halt and review the ranks. Taking for granted that we desire good, what do we find—how may we cast out the worthless element and purify and strengthen this great permeating power of woman's influence?

In our earnest search, then, we find some positively good influence, much that is negative, and much positive evil. All honor and love to the pure, strong and sweet women who in their goodness and unwavering loyalty to the right and love for their Master make their influence felt, and help on the coming of Christ's kingdom, when mankind will be lifted out of selfishness and the spirit of Christ shall pervade all humanity.

And now, girls, what are we to do? We are women, and so surely as we live are exerting some kind of influence. What is it? Are we positive in our ideas of right and wrong? There are often subjects about which we cannot be positive, but some things we do know so surely as each one has a conscience. Then don't be timid when the time comes and you have to answer what you think. We have no right to be cowardly, as we are women, and must uphold the moral standard for Christ's sake, and in obedience to His Holy Spirit in our hearts.

After the light of all these centuries can we repeat Peter's denial without far greater cause for censure?

I would have great patience with the timid ones, but it is a form of selfishness; we must get out of ourselves,—our personal feelings should be of no account

where God's great work is to be done by us.

I wish we might make woman's good influence over balance the evil, and I believe we can, for "right is might" and we are promised shall conquer in the end. Till Christ's time again shall come may we all prove faithful in the right use of this power He has given us to use for Him.

To exert a positive influence for good in these days, girls, involves a great deal. We must know as thoroughly as is possible for us the important moral questions of the day, so that in talking with a young man we may understand as well as he does the subject at hand. With every great question should come serious study, and the Holy Spirit must teach us the truth.

Then let us be honest, and if we are puzzled say so, but never weakly let a thing go till we have tried to understand it, nor laugh at an expression of opinion which we really do not approve; this is what I would call a negatively good influence.

There are few really great minds in the world and little purely original thought; our thoughts and opinions are builded one upon another's, and so by reading, conversation, listening to lectures and sermons we gain an opinion of our own.

To have gained an influence over some one is an awful responsibility, and yet it is what girls speak of every day in the most careless way.

Now, girls, for fear you will not undertake to read (and perhaps some of you have not the time) the lengthy and learned articles on some of the leading moral questions of the day, I am going to try and talk with you from time to time as simply and concisely as I can about these things which we as women have to face to-day and be ready to express an opinion upon. I would not insist that you should think as I do, only I hope I may help you to form an opinion of your own, so your influence may be positive for good.—*Christian Work.*

THE most awful thought that comes to a man sometimes is the thought of a soul that he injured years and years ago, and that he cannot touch and cannot help. His own life is under better influence; his own life is uplifted; but where is the man, where is the woman, to whom he did the harm years and years ago? God save us from that! It would be hopeless if it had not the infinite hope in the endless love of God to fall back upon.—*Phillips Brooks.*

I DIMLY guess from blessings known of greater out of sight.—*Whittier.*